

Personal Reflection

Allegretti, Joseph G. *Loving your Job, Finding Your Passion: Work and the Spiritual Life.* Mohwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2000.

Work may be an end in itself, but it is also a calling to be in relationship with the people around us and the world at large. This book offers a spirituality of work: the ability to respond to the deepest impulses of human life. It helps readers begin either to learn how to reclaim their initial excitement with a position at a job or to decide what type of employment or activity is best for them.

Block, Deborah P. and Lee J. Richmond. *Connections between Spirit and Work in Career Development.* Palo Alto, CA: Davies-Black Publishing, 1997.

This book offers new ways to address one's yearning in order to seek a more personally satisfying and meaningful work life. Bloch and Richmond discuss both theoretical issues and the everyday concerns of balancing personal, family, and workplace needs. This is a must-read for all people who have goals that they want to achieve but who have other needs to balance, too.

Daloz, Laurent, A., Cheryl H. Keen, James P. Keen, and Sharon Daloz Parks. *Common Fire: Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World.* Boston: Beacon Press, 1997.
(Location: Exploring Our Gifts Resource Center.)

Common Fire gives insight into how to find a common good, put an emphasis on community and compassion in everyday life, and retain a values-based political stance in the public sphere. This book is definitely a compelling and encouraging must-read.

Leider, Richard J. *Power of Purpose, Creating Meaning in Your Life and Work.* San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 1998.
(Location: Exploring Our Gifts Resource Center.)

Have you ever wondered whether there was more to life than just going to work everyday and doing your job? Is there work that is unique to you? Is there a job you are called to do? Author Dick Leider provides a practical process for answering these questions and creating a life filled with meaning and passion.

Levoy, Gregg. *Callings, Finding and Following an Authentic Life.* New York: Three Rivers Press, 1997.
(Location: Exploring Our Gifts Resource Center.)

Callings asks the question: how do we know we are doing what we should be doing, whether it be in an occupation, with relationships, spiritual paths, creative work, or another area of life?

Palmer, Parker J. *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.
(Location: Exploring Our Gifts Resource Center.)

Let Your Life Speak is about vocation. Palmer invites us to ask the hard personal questions: who am I, what have I been created to do, and what is my deepest passion in life? Palmer shares his life story with us and, through this story, teaches us how to make decisions based on inner truth and awareness rather than on the outer “oughts” and “shoulds.”

Parks, Sharon Daloz. *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Young Adults in Their Search of Meaning, Purpose, and Faith*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.
(Location: Exploring Our Gifts Resource Center.)

In *Big Questions Worthy Dreams*, Sharon Parks re-examines the twenty-something years and demonstrates how crucial it is to create mentoring environments that recognize, support, challenge, and inspire the promise of young adult lives.

Robbins, Alexandria and Abby Wilmer. *Quarterlife Crisis*. Los Angeles: J. P. Tarcher, 2001.

Quarterlife Crisis offers guidance and comfort to recent and not-so-recent graduates and helps families, friends, colleagues, and advisors understand the nature of the often confusing and frustrating period of transition into the “real world.” With its wealth of information and startlingly candid anecdotes, this book compellingly addresses the most difficult questions facing twenty-somethings today.

Smith, C. Fraser. “Mayor O’Malley and the Gonzaga Test.” *The Baltimore Sun*, June 9, 2002.
(Location: Exploring Our Gifts Resource Center.)

An opinion piece on the mayor of Baltimore, Martin O’Malley, this article examines a commencement speech that the mayor delivered to his alma mater Gonzaga High School on June 2, 2002 and speculates on how its content reflects on his subsequent decision not to run for governor of Maryland, despite public and political pressure to do so. Martin O’Malley seems to have decided on duty over power, and his words and actions bespeak a strong belief in his own vocation as a mayor in a violent city.

Thorpe, Douglas, ed. *Work and Life of the Spirit*. San Francisco: Mercury House, 1998.
(Location: not available.)

This book tries to help us to renew a sense of meaning for life and teach us to give our acts dignity in an age in which much worthy work is despised or ignored.

Veith, Gene Edward, Jr. *God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2002.
(Location: Bethel Seminary.)

This book addresses the concept of discovering God's purpose and calling in one's self. Through a spiritual framework, it helps readers to begin to see that God's work is in their work.

Veith, Gene Edward, Jr. *The Spirituality of the Cross: the Way of the First Evangelicals*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999.
(Location: Exploring Our Gifts Resource Center.)

This book allows the reader to better understand what Jesus' death on the Cross means for us today. It also challenges us to transfigure our everyday lives into lives of spiritual experience.

Whyte, David, ed. *Crossing the Unknown Sea, Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2001.
(Location: Augsburg College Library.)

Whyte uses the metaphor of a sea voyage to depict the journey through the world of work. Whyte's view of work is that it is not only a means of support but also a means for interacting with the world and developing self-expression and identity. Whyte aims us in the direction of finding our "inner compass" through interaction with the world and allows us to place ourselves on the same voyage.